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PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10982056-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Carter et al. **Confirmation No.:** 6119

Application No.: 09/272,810 **Examiner:** Luu

Filing Date: 3/19/1999 **Group Art Unit:** 2152

Title: NETWORK SERVER USING LOCAL INFORMATION TO DETECT TIMED-OUT CLIENT REQUESTS

Official

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

(X) Response/Amendment ( ) Petition to extend time to respond
( ) New fee as calculated below ( ) Supplemental Declaration
(X) No additional fee (Address envelope to "Box Non-Fee Amendments")
( ) Other: _____ (fee $_____)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY						
(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEES
TOTAL CLAIMS	21	MINUS	21	= 0	X $18	$ 0
INDEP. CLAIMS	5	MINUS	5	= 0	X $84	$ 0
[ ] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+ $280	$ 0
EXTENSION FEE	1ST MONTH $110.00 [ ]	2ND MONTH $400.00 [ ]	3RD MONTH $920.00 [ ]	4TH MONTH $1440.00 [ ]		$ 0
					OTHER FEES	$
					TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT	$ 0

Charge $ 0 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21. ~~A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.~~

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date of Facsimile: 8/14/2002

Typed Name: Hugh P. Gortler

Signature: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Carter et al.

By _____

Hugh P. Gortler

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 33,890

Date: 8/14/2002

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Rev 10/01 (TrAmdFax)

- Attach as First Page to Transmitted Papers -

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NE #9/13 hm 8/16/02

PATENT
PDNO 10982056-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Carter et al.	: Confirmation No. 6119
Serial No. 09/272,810	: Examiner Le H. Luu
Filed: March 19, 1999	: Group Art Unit: 2152

For: **NETWORK SERVER USING LOCAL INFORMATION TO DETECT TIMED-OUT CLIENT REQUESTS**

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 15, 2002

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Huras et al. The '102 rejection, which has been made final, is respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 recites a method for a server to handle a network connection. The network connection includes a client-to-server channel and a server-to-client channel. The method comprises examining local server information to determine whether the client-to-server channel is still established; and aborting response preparation to a client request if the client-to-server channel is determined to be no longer established.

The office action contends that the Abstract and col. 7, line 57 to col. 8, line 67 of Huras et al. disclose aborting response preparation to a client request if the client-to-server channel is determined to be no longer established. The

undersigned and the applicants have reviewed these passages and do not see an explicit teaching that response preparation is aborted.

The last sentence of the Abstract merely states that the service provider terminates client resources if a flag is not set.

The passages at col. 7, line 57 to col. 8, line 67 describe the flowchart of Figure 2B. Yet Figure 2B clearly shows that response preparation is NOT aborted. According to the Figure 2B, client resources are deallocated ***after*** preparing a response to any pending valid client request, even if the client process termination occurred before server response preparation started.

Because the Huras et al. patent does not disclose that response preparation is aborted if the client-to-server channel is determined to be no longer established, it does not disclose all of the limitations recited in claim 1. Therefore, the '102(e) rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 should be withdrawn.

The office action attributes the following teaching to Huras et al.: that response preparation is aborted when the "server process terminate resources allocated to client process to free up system resources if determined that client process has terminated because of any reason." Huras et al. disclose no such thing. The paragraph starting on col. 8, line 59 of Huras et al. states that the operating system posts a send semaphore when a client process is terminated. "After the posting of the send semaphore, the server process will test the flag as discussed and terminate all resources allocated to the client process 150." Nothing is mentioned about response preparation.

Thus the office action mistakenly assumes that all client resources must be terminated immediately after the send semaphore is posted, and that terminating

the client resources will necessarily cause response preparation to be aborted. Huras et al. illustrate why these assumptions are mistaken.

As shown in Huras et al. Fig. 2A and described in col. 7 lines 37-44, a client process receives a request from the application (block 10), writes the request data to shared memory (block 15), sets the "valid request" flag to "true" (block 20), and then posts (increments to 1) the send semaphore (block 25). Once the send semaphore is set, the operating system ends the wait function executed by the server process (block 9, Fig. 2B) and immediately clears the just-posted send semaphore (col 7. lines 57-61). The operating system puts the server process on a queue of processes that are ready to run, but on a computer system consisting of potentially hundreds of processes (col. 1, lines 21-22), the server process may wait a significant time period before being able to proceed along the flowchart of Fig. 2B past block 9. Assuming next that the client process terminates, the operating system posts the send semaphore (col. 8, lines 59-62), but does not alter the value of the request flag, which remains as "true." The server process, when next allowed to run, sees the "true" request flag as indicating a valid request. According to Fig. 2B, the server process proceeds by setting the "valid request" flag to "false" (block 55), reading the request data in shared memory (block 60), ***processing the request*** (block 65), and writing the response data to shared memory (block 70). After this response preparation, the server process proceeds through blocks 75, 9, and 50. The server process then proceeds to block 80, where it frees up resources and terminates. Thus, the server process does not abort response preparation to a pending request before deallocating client process resources, even if the client was terminated before response preparation began.

In the previous response, the applicants gave a detailed explanation as to why Huras et al. do not abort response preparation. The examiner apparently

ignored this explanation and simply repeated the rejection. The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the explanation above. If the examiner believes that the explanation is incorrect, reasons should be stated, and supporting statements in Huras et al. should be pinpointed.

Huras et al. make no suggestion of aborting response preparation. In general, terminating client resources does not suggest that response preparation is aborted. In a database system, for example, it might be important for the service provider not to "drop" client requests (which might be, for example, to change a database entry). Perhaps this is why the server process of Huras, et al. prepares a response (makes a database entry change) even when the client process has terminated.

For these reasons, Huras et al do not teach or suggest the method of claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 should be allowable over Huras et al. Claims 8-21 should be allowable over Huras et al. for the same reasons.

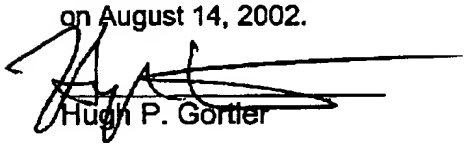
Figure 6 was amended in the previous response. A replacement sheet is attached. A replacement sheet is also being submitted to the Official Draftsperson.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of allowability. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh P. Gortler
Reg. No. 33,890

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 14, 2002.



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